

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Selyutin (U.S. Patent No. 6,120,609) in view of Zhao (U.S. Patent No. 5,558,717) and further in view of Pollock (U.S. Patent No. 4,726,689). Claims 2-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Selyutin in view of Zhao and Pollock and further in view of Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,073,912). Finally, claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 1039a) as being unpatentable over Selyutin in view of Zhao and Pollock and further in view of McDonald (U.S. Patent No. 2,908,472). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the base is a "a movable base which supports the moving portion movably by moving together with the moving portion relative to the casing...." Thus, according to claim 1, the base 103, which supports the moving portion 130, is movable relative to the casing such that movement of the base 103 by the adjusting support mechanisms 190 results in movement of the moving portion 130 as well. It is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the arrangement recited in claim 1.

More specifically, both Selyutin and Zhao fail to disclose a "movable" base.

The Examiner asserts that Zhao discloses a member 247 as an adjust support mechanism. Following this assumption, in Fig. 8, member 249 would seem to correspond to the claimed movable base. However, this member 249 is fixed to a casing 134 and cannot move relative to the casing, as is required by claim 1. Further, the member 249 cannot move together with the moving portion. Therefore, Zhao fails to disclose the claimed "moving base" and "adjusting support mechanisms" which adjust the clearance between the "movable base" and "(fixed) casing".

In addition, although the Examiner asserts that a unitary base 230 of Selyutin corresponds to the base, this base 230 does not move relative to the casing or together with the moving portion 238.

Accordingly, since the movable base is not taught or suggested in the prior art, an adjusting support mechanism which adjusts clearance between the "moving base" and "non-movable casing" is not taught or suggested in any cited references. Therefore, the claimed invention is believed to be patentable over the prior art, none of which compensates for the above deficiencies.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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